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3 I claim:

4 1. A drilling fluid bucket comprising:

5 -a first half cylindrical member;

6 -a second half cylindrical member, and wherein said first half cylindrical member
7 and said second half cylindrical member form a cylindrical member;

8 -a closing member operatively attached at a first end to said first half cylindrical
9 member and operatively attached at a second end to said second half cylindrical member, wherein
10 said closing member is pneumatically operated;

11 -a latching member that latches said first half cylindrical member with said second
12 half cylindrical member.
13

14 2. The bucket of claim 1 wherein said closing member comprises:

15 -a first bracket attached to said first half cylindrical member;

16 -a second bracket attached to said second half cylindrical member;

17 -a pneumatically operated piston contained within a cylinder and wherein said cylinder is
18 attached to said first bracket and said second bracket is attached to said piston.
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20 3. The bucket of claim 2 further comprising:

21 -an outlet for directing a drilling fluid from said drilling fluid bucket.
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1 4. The bucket of claim 2 wherein said latching member is a pneumatically operated piston
2 contained within a cylinder attached to a first hook and a piston attached to a second hook,
3 wherein said first and second hooks cooperate with a fastener to latch said first and said second
4 half cylindrical members together.

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6 5. The bucket of claim 4 further comprising:
7 -a seal means positioned along a first face on said first half cylindrical member that
8 cooperates with a sealing surface positioned along a second face on said second half cylindrical
9 member.

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11 6. The bucket of claim 5 wherein said seal means comprises a longitudinal seal strip
12 inserted into a groove formed on said first face.

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14 7. The bucket of claim 6 further comprising a seal lip positioned along the first half
15 cylindrical member and covering said second half cylindrical member.

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17 8. The bucket of claim 7 further comprising:
18 -a plurality of closing members operatively attached at a first end to said first half
19 cylindrical member and operatively attached at a second end to said second half cylindrical
20 member, wherein said closing members are pneumatically operated.

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22 9. The bucket of claim 8 further comprising:

1 -a plurality of latching members that locks said first half cylindrical member and second
2 half member together.

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4 10. An apparatus for preventing the spillage of a drilling fluid onto a drilling rig floor, the
5 apparatus comprising:

6 -a first sleeve;

7 -a second sleeve, and wherein said first sleeve and second sleeve form a cylindrical
8 member;

9 -a closing member operatively attached at a first end of said first sleeve and
10 operatively attached at a second end of said second sleeve, wherein said closing member is
11 pneumatically operated;

12 -a latching member that latches said first sleeve with said second sleeve;

13 -a seal means positioned along a first face on said first sleeve that cooperates with
14 a sealing surface positioned along a second face on said second sleeve.

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16 11. The apparatus of claim 10 further comprising:

17 -an outlet for directing the drilling fluid from the apparatus.

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19 12. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein said latching member is a pneumatically operated
20 piston contained within a cylinder, and wherein said cylinder is attached to a first hook and said
21 piston is attached to a second hook, wherein said first hook and said second hook cooperate with
22 a fastener to latch said first sleeve and said second sleeve together.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein said closing member comprises:

2 -a first bracket attached to said first sleeve;

3 -a second bracket attached to said second sleeve;

4 -a pneumatically operated piston contained within a cylinder and wherein said
5 cylinder is attached to said first bracket and said second bracket is attached to said piston.

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7 14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said seal means comprises a longitudinal seal strip
8 inserted into a groove formed on said first face.

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10 15. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising:

11 -a plurality of closing members operatively attached at a first end to said first
12 sleeve and operatively attached at a second end to said second sleeve, wherein said closing
13 members are pneumatically operated.

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15 16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said latching member comprises:

16 -a plurality of latching members that latches said first sleeve and said second sleeve
17 together.

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19 17. The apparatus of claim 16 further comprising a seal lip positioned along the first
20 sleeve and covering said second sleeve in order to prevent the drilling fluid within the bucket from
21 leaking.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said longitudinal seal strip and said sealing surface
2 is constructed of an elastomer.

3
4 19. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said longitudinal seal strip contains a head portion
5 and wherein said sealing surface comprises a complimentary enlarged portion that receives said
6 head portion to provide a seal.

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8 20. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein said latching members comprise:
9 -a cylinder having a pneumatically responsive rod therein;
10 -a first hook connected to a first end of said cylinder and wherein said first hook is
11 pivotly attached to said second sleeve;
12 -a second hook connected to said rod and wherein said second hook is pivotly
13 attached to said second sleeve;
14 -and wherein, as air pressure is supplied to said cylinder, said rod expands and
15 causes pivoting of said first hook to engage a first shoulder on said second sleeve, and said
16 cylinder causes pivoting of said second hook to engage a second shoulder on said second sleeve.

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18 21. A method of preventing spillage of a drilling fluid contained within a first and a
19 second tubular onto a drilling rig floor, wherein said frist and second tubular are threadedly
20 attached, the method comprising:

21 -providing a drilling fluid bucket, and wherein the bucket comprises: a first sleeve; a
22 second sleeve, and wherein said first sleeve and said second sleeve form a cylindrical container; a

1 closing member operatively attached at a first end to said first sleeve and operatively attached at a
2 second end to said second sleeve, wherein said closing member is pneumatically operated; a
3 latching member that latches said first sleeve and second sleeve; a seal means positioned along a
4 first face on said first sleeve that cooperates with a sealing face formed on said second sleeve;

5 -providing said first end of said second tubular within a rotary table on the drilling rig
6 floor;

7 -surrounding said first and said second tubular with said bucket;

8 -activating said pneumatic closing member;

9 -pivoting said first sleeve and said second sleeve so that the cylindrical container
10 encapsulates said first tubular and said second tubular;

11 -forming a seal to keep the drilling fluid within the cylindrical container by compressing
12 the first seal against the seal surface;

13 -disconnecting the first tubular and the second tubular;

14 -collecting the drilling fluid from said first tubular and said second tubular within said
15 bucket;

16 -directing the drilling fluid from said bucket.

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18 22. The method of claim 21 wherein the bucket further comprises a pneumatically
19 operated latching member and the step of pivoting said first and second sleeve further comprising:

20 -activating said latching member wherein said latching member contains a hook member;

21 -engaging said hook member onto a shoulder on said cylindrical container.

1 23. The method of claim 22 wherein the bucket further comprises a seal lip along a hinge
2 pivot seam of said cylindrical container, and wherein the step of forming a seal further comprising:

3 -sealing the hinge pivot seam with the seal lip.
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5 24. The method of claim 21 wherein the bucket further comprises a pneumatically
6 operated latching member and the step of pivoting said first and said second sleeve further
7 comprises:

8 -activating said latching member, wherein said latching member comprise: a
9 cylinder having a pneumatically responsive rod therein; a first hook connected to a first end of
10 said cylinder and wherein said first hook is pivotly attached to said second sleeve; a second hook
11 connected to said rod and wherein said second hook is pivotly attached to said second sleeve;

12 -expanding said rod with an air pressure supplied to said cylinder, said rod
13 expanding and causing the pivoting of said first hook to engage a first shoulder on said second
14 sleeve;

15 -moving said cylinder with the air pressure which causes pivoting of said second
16 hook to engage a second shoulder on said second sleeve so that the first and the second sleeves
17 are latched together.
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